

Merry Christmas Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEEKEND EDITION FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

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weather

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Notice to readers

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Babe of Wabash County selling charity window candle lighting spots

Babe of Wabash County would like to remember or honor your loved ones by placing candles in their windows. The candles will light up the house throughout the Christmas season. The cost will be \$25 per candle. In addition to placing a candle in their window, they will also honor your loved one on our Facebook page and in their newsletter. The proceeds for the fundraiser will go towards their coupon program and boutique needs. For more information, call 260-274-0158, email babeofwabashinc@gmail.com or visit www.babeofwabashcounty.org.

Wabash City Hall to close for Christmas holiday

Wabash City Hall and all non-essential departments of the city of Wabash will be closed through 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 27 "so our staff can celebrate the Christmas holiday with their families," said Mayor Scott Long's assistant Bev Vanderpool.

Town of Lagro to hold a special year-end meeting

The town of Lagro will be holding a special year-end meeting to sign vouchers at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec.

See PULSE, page A9

Holiday edition

Because Christmas is a postal holiday, we will not be producing a print edition of the newspaper on Saturday.

Inside

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Rep. Craig Snow co-authors HB 1001, which Indiana Chamber opposes

Bill would end emergency; force businesses to accept medical, religious vaccination exemptions

By ROB BURGESS

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Late last month, Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, joined his fellow co-authors in presenting House Bill 1001, which would, among other goals, seek to end the statewide public health emergency.

However, that bill has encountered some degree of

opposition, not the least of which from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

HB 1001 would allow Gov. Eric Holcomb's state public health emergency to expire by ensuring Indiana could continue receiving the same federal reimbursements for SNAP and Medicaid, and maintain the state's ability to hold voluntary community

Provided photo
Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, left, joins fellow co-authors at the Statehouse in Indianapolis to file House Bill 1001 on Monday, Nov. 29.

vaccination clinics. Holcomb recently announced that he will keep the state of emergency and the remaining, but limited, executive order in place until lawmakers take action in January, said In-

See SNOW BILL, page A9



Jackson Austin named one of Lilly Endowment Community Scholars 2022



This year's finalists, from left to right, are Jackson Austin, of Manchester High School; Jade Michel, of Manchester High School; Tyler Whitesel, of Southwood High School; and Kyle Wynn, of Northfield High School.

Finalists included Jade Michel, of MHS; Tyler Whitesel, of SHS; and Kyle Wynn, of NHS

By ROB BURGESS

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

When the process began, there were over 30 applicants for this year's Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship (LECS) in Wabash County.

After the applications were received that field was narrowed down to four finalists.

And, finally, on Friday, Dec. 17, Jackson Austin, of Manchester High School, was named the Lilly Endowment Community Scholar 2022.

The other three finalists were Jade Michel, of Manchester High School; Tyler Whitesel, of Southwood High

School; and Kyle Wynn, of Northfield High School, said Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFCW) program director Julie Garber.

"Austin was selected from among the finalists for the scholarship," said Garber.

Garber said Wabash County has participated in the program for around 25 years. The CFCW administers the LECS application and selection process for Wabash County students. Since 1998, over 40 Wabash County students have received the LEC scholarship.

See SCHOLARS, page A3



On Friday, Dec. 17, Jackson Austin, of Manchester High School, was named the Lilly Endowment Community Scholar 2022.

ISP increasing patrols during the holidays

Officers will be on high alert for anyone driving under the influence

STAFF REPORT

The Indiana State Police (ISP) is increasing patrols during the holiday season, as part of a statewide crackdown on impaired driving, according to a press release.

Through Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022, officers will be on high alert for anyone driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Law enforcement will also be watching for seat belt violations and other forms of dangerous driving.

This is part of the Safe Family Travel campaign aimed at reducing crashes and traffic fatalities around the holidays when statistics show an increased potential for drunk driving. The high-visibility patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with a grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

Every year, more than 10,000 people die in drunk-driving crashes in the U.S. That's approximately one person every 52 minutes. While driving under the influence is a daily concern, it's more prevalent around certain holidays, with Christmas and New Year's Day among the deadliest.

Last December, 73 people lost their lives in fatal collisions in Indiana. Of those, 11 involved a drunk driver, according to ICJI.

"It's important to remember

See PATROLS, page A3

Beverly Vanderpool honored at the Visit Wabash County board dinner

She was presented with a Distinguished Leadership Award

STAFF REPORT

Beverly Vanderpool was honored on Thursday, Dec. 16 during Visit Wabash County's end of the year board celebration, which took place at the Charley Creek Inn, according to marketing manager Whitney Millsbaugh.

Vanderpool, who served as Visit Wabash County's board president during 2021, was presented with a Distinguished Leadership

Award for her level of service and dedication to the organization.

Presenting the award on behalf of the full board of directors and staff was Adam Stakeman, incoming 2022 Board President for Visit Wabash County. "On behalf of Visit Wabash County, we would like to honor your service as President for the last year," said Stakeman. "During your tenure, you have represented Visit Wabash County with advocacy, positive leadership, and strength. You have led the board and staff with vision, dedication, and care. We thank you for your service to this board

and all of Wabash County."

During the past year, Visit Wabash County has aggressively accomplished an advanced scope of work which included launching the inaugural Bluegrass at Hopewell event, the completion of a localized extreme triathlon, Trolley No. 85 experience tours, and executing the installation of three Wabash County Hero Memorials.

"The leadership of Visit Wabash County is in strong & very capable hands," said Vanderpool. "It has been rewarding to act as president for the organization and it

See VANDERPOOL, page A3



Provided photo
From left are Adam Stakeman, the incoming 2022 Board President for Visit Wabash County, and Beverly Vanderpool.

What is Christmas? Siri knows more than some believers

This question rocks the internet year after year: Is “Die Hard” a Christmas movie?

How about “Frosty the Snowman,” “Home Alone,” “Elf” or “A Bad Moms Christmas”? Is “A Christmas Story” really a “Christmas” story? What about those Hallmark Channel visions of romance, complicated families and wall-to-wall holiday decorations?

The answer to these questions, and many others, hinges on how Americans answer another question: What is Christmas?

Ask that question to an iPhone, and Siri will quote Wikipedia: “Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.”

Most people know that much of the story, according to a new survey by Lifeway Research in Nashville. Nearly 75 percent of Americans say Jesus was born more than 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, and even more believe that Jesus is the Son of God the Father. After that, things get fuzzy.

“Lots of people celebrate Christmas, but some have no interest in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway. “But even some of the people who do take the Christmas message seriously don’t understand what it means. ...

“This is a story that hasn’t changed for 2,000 years, yet many people struggle to tell the story and get the details right. Many don’t know why Jesus was born.”

Nine out of 10 adult Americans celebrate Christmas, including many

Terry Mattingly



region, ethnicity, education and religion. This finding matches earlier research.

While Catholics (99 percent) and Protestants (97 percent) are the most likely to celebrate Christmas, 82 percent of religiously unaffiliated Americans also take part, along with 74 percent of believers in other religious faiths. Location matters, as well. Residents of the Midwest (94 percent) are more likely to observe Christmas than those in the Northeast (88 percent).

According to a 2018 Lifeway survey, 65 percent of Americans insist that Christmas should focus more on the story of Jesus. However, only 22 percent were confident that they could share the biblical account – from memory – of the Christmas story, with 31 percent saying they might get a few details wrong. Among self-identified Christians, 45 percent of those who attended worship services four times a month or more were confident that they knew the crucial details.

The goal of the 2021 survey, said McConnell, was to probe deeper on questions about the identity of Jesus and how his birth is connected to doctrines that have united Christians through the centuries.

“Lots of people seem to be missing the point,” he said. “They fail to see how the birth of Jesus is part of a larger story of redemption.”

For example, 72 percent of those surveyed agreed that Jesus was born more

non-Christians, according to the September survey of 1,005 Americans. Participants were selected to balance gender, age,

than 2,000 years ago – with 49 percent strongly agreeing with that statement. However, while 80 percent affirmed that Jesus is the Son of God the Father, only 41 percent said Jesus existed – as part of the Holy Trinity – before his birth in Bethlehem. Nearly a third (32 percent) disagreed with that belief and another 28 percent were not sure.

It wasn’t surprising that religiously unaffiliated Americans were the least likely to agree with the survey questions about the birth and identity of Jesus. However, 48 percent of these so-called “nones” said they believed that Jesus is the Son of God, and 33 percent said that it’s true that Jesus was born 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem.

Why was Jesus born? More than half (51 percent) affirmed that he “came to give his life for many,” while 31 percent agreed that Jesus came to “give life in abundance” and to “give his life as a ransom for many.” Only 8 percent incorrectly affirmed that Jesus came to “condemn sinners.”

It’s clear that churches need to find a way to “simply tell the biblical story so that more people can understand what Christmas is about,” said McConnell.

Every December, he added, “lots of people expect some of their emotional needs to be met. Sometimes that happens and sometimes it doesn’t. What we see in the Christmas story is the God of the Bible showing how much he cares. ... There’s more to that than a Hallmark movie or getting that gift that you want.”

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

5-Day Weather Summary

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Chance Showers	Showers Likely	Few Showers
56 / 46	61 / 37	51 / 43	54 / 41	58 / 39

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:24 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:02 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
12/26	1/2	1/9	1/17

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers, high temperature of 57°, humidity of 77%. South wind 10 to 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 35% chance of showers, overnight low of 51°. South southwest wind 9 to 16 mph.

Something new

By KIRK JOHNSON

It’s Christmas. Some have been waiting for months for this day to arrive. Others have been moving last minute to gather gifts for friends and family. In the church, it’s this time when we focus on Jesus’ birth and this new movement of God in the world began 2,000 years ago – a movement that continues to this day with the hope of more of His “new” and “renewing” work to come. This is one of the great things about Christmas, this sense of hopeful anticipation that God is up to something new – something rich and amazing, not just 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, but also today and in us.

As I read the account of Jesus’ birth, I am amazed at the lack of anticipation we find that first Christmas. Only a small handful of people seemed to really be expectantly searching for Jesus’ arrival. The Gospel of Matthew gives us one group, calling them “magi” or “wise men from the east.” Let’s be honest and call them what they were: astrologers – guys who lived and breathed their horoscopes. They weren’t Jewish but foreigners. They weren’t God-followers but engaged in superstitious practices. Yet these were some of the few seeking God’s new movements. That seeking led them to Jerusalem to ask about the baby Jesus who had been born. Astrologers searching after

God shocks me, but what we read next surprises me even more. Herod called in the elite religious scholars, the best of the best and asked them where God’s Messiah would be born. Without hesitation they rattle of a passage from the prophetic book of Micah: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd by people Israel.” (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6)

These religious leaders all knew where the Messiah would be born. You’d think they would have a system in place in Bethlehem to check new babies, run background checks on all residents to ensure safety, or screen all families to see who had King David as an ancestor. God had spoken: “Bethlehem is the place!” Yet God’s people, while believing that God could do something new and even praying God would do something new, had stopped looking or expecting God to actually do something new.

Honestly, I think too many Christians in America live right here. We pray that God would do something, we believe God can do something, but we have stopped looking for God to do anything new in our churches, our community, and more personally – in our lives. I think this Christmas we need to recapture the truth of who God is: our God who is constantly doing something new. Here

are just a few of the “new” God longs to do in us and through us:

God tells us that in Jesus that He has made a new promise to us (Luke 22:20). This new promise includes new life for us (Romans 6:4) with new hope (1 Peter 1:3). He gives us new attitudes, desires, and purpose in life (Ephesians 4:22-23) which means a new way of living for God, serving Him out of a grateful heart and through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 7:6). He calls us to live out this new life with Him reaching new people with His new message of hope and forgiveness and new beginnings (2 Corinthians 5:11-21). And just when we think God has run out of new things to do, He tells us in Revelation 21:5, “I am making everything new.”

The truth of Christmas is that our God is up to something new. He longs to do something new and amazing in and through you to make a positive difference in the lives of people around you. He longs to move further and do something new in our churches and throughout our community. Let us then turn to Him with fresh, hope-filled expectation as we ask our Father, “What new do you want to do in me and through me today?” We can and should anticipate great things because we belong to a great God. Merry Christmas.

Kirk Johnson is the pastor of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene.

U.S. throws Nigerian Christians to the wolves

Imagine knowing that the every act of going to a religious service would likely result in violence and death. In Nigeria, churches have been sent warning letters instructing them to shut down or face “ferocious” attacks. That’s some Christmas card! In a just before Thanksgiving, as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was set to arrive in Nigeria as part of his tour of Africa, the country was cruelly and infuriatingly de-listed from the roster of Countries of Particular Concern for Religious Freedom by the U.S. State Department.

Christians in Nigeria rightfully feel abandoned by the United States. In a distressing new video released by the Religious Freedom Institute, Bishop Stephen Dami Mamza of Northeast Nigeria says Christians are disheart-

Kathryn Lopez



In 2014, much of Bishop Mamza’s diocese was devastated by Boko Haram marauders. As the region was occupied by the Islamist terrorist group, members of his flock fled, leaving their whole lives behind. Some of them were able to go back in 2016, but there was nothing there for them. Their homes and farms had all been destroyed.

Mamza says he is hard-pressed to find a family that has not lost someone to that murderous violence – he lost his elder brother,

ened by the perplexing move. “All Christians in Nigeria are feeling bad” about it, he says, fearing an upswing in anti-Christian violence.

cousins and uncles. He says people are traumatized – and they remain surrounded by people who hate them.

The religious-freedom designation exists for countries where there are “systematic, ongoing egregious violations of religious freedom, among other cruelties to the human person because of religion. The bipartisan United States Commission on Religious Freedom (USCRF) immediately said it was “appalled” by the move. The USCRF exists in part to advise the U.S. government about the list, and the State Department ignored its recommendation to keep Nigeria on the list.

“How is Nigeria different than the Nigeria of two years ago?” Mamza asks. “The persecution here is more intense now than ever.” He asks the U.S. State

Department to explain what data they used, because it’s not reflective of the facts on the ground. He is saddened that the Biden administration didn’t actually talk to Christians in Nigeria before making its move.

Eric Patterson of the Religious Freedom Institute also warns against explaining away the violence in Nigeria as something other than religious. Listen to the perpetrators, he says – they say their motivation is religious – they want Christians dead.

The Religious Freedom Institute recently held a virtual panel that should embarrass all Americans. It was called “America’s Indifference to the Plight of Nigerian Christians: A Conversation about U.S. Policy.”

“There are a set of overlapping catastrophes happening in Nigeria,”

Patterson said. “For more than a decade, Boko Haram, Islamic State of West Africa and criminal and terrorist organizations have murdered 90,000 of their fellow citizens – their fellow Sunni Muslims, the Shia minority and Christians.”

The U.S. ambassador to Nigeria has dismissed concerns about the violence against Christians. During the Religious Freedom panel, Nina Shea from the Hudson Institute pointed out that we are watching “a growing spreading, bloodied disintegration of northern Nigeria.” If it continues unabated, it will both destabilize the country and radicalize it, and “create incalculable human misery.”

“This is a U.S. national security threat,” Shea says, “that the United States is completely missing.” She says the delisting of Nigeria

is a “betrayal” for what we stand for as a country.

Remember these long-suffering people this Christmas. You can watch a short video on the YouTube of the Religious Freedom Institute – look in the faces of some of the people we have abandoned – and witness the courage of Bishop Mamza, who says God will bless you for your prayers. Keep an eye on what is happening and educate people to create moral pressure for our government to undo this injustice.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

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Obituaries

Ronald Eugene Shaw

Sept. 5, 1930 – Dec. 22, 2021

Ronald Eugene Shaw, 91, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 7:11 pm, Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at Peabody Healthcare Center in North Manchester. He was born on September 5, 1930, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Ronald and Hazel Nell (Butler) Shaw.

Ron was a 1956 graduate of Arsenal Tech High School in Indianapolis. He was a US Air Force veteran. Ron married Laura Belle Hughes on December 12, 1953 at McCord Air Force Base Chapel in Tacoma, Washington. He worked at Allison General Motors, Honeywell Incorporated, and retired from Ford Meter Box in Wabash, in 1995. After retirement, Ron worked for Coast-to-Coast/True Value, and also Honeywell Golf Course. Ron was a Roann Volunteer fireman, served as chief for 22 years, and also was a volunteer at the Honeywell Center. He belonged to the Wabash Friends Church, the Wabash American Legion Post 15, and was a former member of the Roann Lions Club and the Pell City, Alabama Lions Club. He enjoyed golfing, woodworking, watching television, and napping.

He is survived by his wife, Laura Belle Shaw of Wabash, three children, Ronald Bruce Shaw of Roann, Leslie Keith Shaw and Mary Carol (Phillip) Hendrick, both of Indianapolis, Indiana, six grandchildren, Missy (Eric) Wilson of Wabash, Rick Swope of Andrews, Indiana, Jakae Swope of Fort Wayne, Indiana, C. Taylor Hendrick



of Indianapolis, Phillip Mark Hendrick of Boston, Massachusetts, and Elliott Morgan Hendrick of Dallas, Texas, 9 great grandchildren, and 8 great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Rhonda Lannell Shaw who died December 27, 1974, daughter-in-law Wanda Shaw, and two half-brothers.

Funeral services will be 10:00 am, Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at Wabash Friends Church, 3563 S. State Road 13, Wabash, with Brandon Eaton and David Phillips officiating. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery. Friends may call 3-7 Monday, December 27, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash, and 1 hour prior to the service Tuesday at the church.

Preferred memorial is Roann Covered Bridge Festival. The memorial guest book for Ron may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Elizabeth Anne Schilling

Elizabeth Anne Schilling, of Newark, Ohio, formerly of North Manchester, Indiana, passed away on December 21, 2021.

She is survived by her parents; her brother, Lucas Schilling (Indianapolis); her maternal grandfather, Allan White); maternal grandmother and step-grandfather, Kathy and Rich Ackley; paternal grandmother, Mar-

garet Schilling); maternal uncle, Jeremy (Jenni) White; maternal aunt, Laurel (Gianni) Yah; paternal uncle, Rodney (Janet) Schilling.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley Street, North Manchester, Indiana. Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rev. Earl E. Guingrich

Rev. Earl E. Guingrich, of Wabash, passed away at 12:56 p.m. on December 21, 2021.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. on December 28, 2021, at McDonald Funeral Homes, Wabash, Indiana

46992. Burial will follow at Falls Cemetery.

Visitation will from 5-7 p.m. December 27, 2021, at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

Mississinewa Lake First Day Hike planned for Jan. 1

“Empower your senses” with an evening stroll at Mississinewa Lake this New Year’s Day, said interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services’ staff for a First Day Hike at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1 at 4673 S. 625 East, Peru.

“Meet at the Blue Heron trail located within Miami State Recreation Area and meander through the woods,” said Rody. “Plan to be on the trail an hour with S’mores

served around a cozy fire afterward. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes are welcome.”

Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

For more information, visit [Facebook.com/UpperWabash](https://www.facebook.com/UpperWabash), <https://on.IN.gov/mississinewalake> or dnr.IN.gov.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

VANDERPOOL

From page A1

has been an honor to serve alongside an incredible group of community leaders.”

In 2022 the organization will be governed by President, Adam Stakeman (industrial sales manager for J.M. Reynolds Oil Company); Vice President Howard Kaler (general manager for the Charley Creek Inn); treasurer Nate Fansher (senior vice president at Crossroads Bank); Secretary Jeremy Markham (athletic director for Huntington Community Schools); Beverly Vanderpool (city of Wabash); Carrie Vineyard (chief marketing officer for Gebhart Holdings); Brittany Rager (marketing and

special event director for Brandt’s Harley-Davidson); Jennifer Bailey (owner of Salamonie Bridal Stalls and The Sanctuary); and Jan Roland (community volunteer).

Executive director of tourism Christine Flohr thanked the board of directors for the role they play throughout the year.

“Serving Wabash County as the director of tourism is an absolute honor,” said Flohr. “The board of directors and the team at Visit Wabash County have built something extraordinary that we can all be proud of and feel an incredible sense of pride knowing that our work impacts the greater good of all.”

For more information, visit www.VisitWabashCounty.com.

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICES

Asbury Country Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 19 service at Asbury Country Church, 1998 E. 250 South, the Sunday school will be at 9:30 a.m. and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. The worship and music leader will be Amy Bullick and the piano will be Cathy Staggs. The morning message by Pastor Mike Bullick will be “The Light Shines On and On.”

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ

Online services are available by visiting www.bachelorcreek.com.

Christ United Methodist Church

Worship service will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChristUMCWabash/.

Christian Heritage Church

Streaming services online and broadcast on 95.9 FM.

College Corner Brethren Church

College Corner Brethren Church is now holding in-person services at 10:15 a.m. Sundays at 8996 S. 500 West, with Pastor Solomon David. The sermons are still on YouTube and Facebook.

Common Ground Prayer House

The Common Ground Prayer House will be open to the public from 8 to 10 a.m. Mondays, except holidays, at 78 W. Hill St. For more information, call Jennifer Mahan at 260-571-8063, Shirley Neale at 260-591-0047 or Debbie Sweet at 260-571-6072.

Dora Christian Church

At the Sunday, Dec. 26 service at Dora Christian Church, 2325 S. Salamonie Dam Road, Lagro, the minister will be Mark Wisniewski, the song leader will be Olman Sanchez, the pianist will be Sherry Brock and the organist will be Kristy Good. We have two in-person Sunday morning services, one at 8:15 a.m. and one at 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School classes for all ages from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. The message for both services will be, “Light to Point the Way,” from Matthew 2:1-12. The Communion Table will be served by Scott Hendry and Brad Frieden. There will be Children’s Church for the 10:30 a.m. service led by John Troyer and Janene Wisniewski. A recorded version of Sunday’s sermon will also be available for view-

ing on the Dora Christian Church Facebook group by the morning of Sunday, Dec. 26. We also have a brief service scheduled for Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24.

LaFontaine Christian Church

The LaFontaine Christian Church pre-records the sermon which is then available for all to view at www.lafontainechristian.com under the sermons tab, stated Pastor Brad Wright.

LaFontaine United Methodist Church

Pastor Susan Shambaugh says that her LaFontaine United Methodist Church is showing replay videos on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/LaFontaine-United-Methodist-Church>. In-person services start at 9:30 a.m. Sundays.

Lincolnvile United Methodist Church

Lincolnvile United Methodist, 5848 E. 500 South, is going back to one worship service. The worship service is at 10 a.m., and Sunday school is at 9 a.m. We started celebrating the Advent season Sunday, Nov. 28. The candle of hope was lit. On Friday, Dec. 24, a Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be received. Come worship with us celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. For more information, email pastorjohn1954@gmail.com or call 260-563-1406.

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Welcome to our in-person worship service at 10:10 a.m. Sundays at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 242 S. Huntington St. Bible study and Sunday school are at 9 a.m. for all ages. The sanctuary is arranged for social distancing. Masks are encouraged and available. Online services are at 10:10 a.m., with pre-service music at 10 a.m. For virtual services and more information, visit www.livingfaithwabash.org.

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Pastor Kurt Borgmann from the Manchester Church of the Brethren stated they will hold a live-stream service at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday by visiting www.manchestercob.net. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the black button that says, “Manchester CoB YouTube Channel.” After the service is finished, one may access a video copy of the live stream

in the same way. Another way to access the live stream or posted video: go to YouTube, search “Manchester Church of the Brethren,” and click on the circle profile.

North Manchester Congregational Christian Church

Pastor Sebrina Cline stated live-streaming begins on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sundays for the North Manchester Congregational Christian Church, and lasts 30 to 40 minutes.

North Manchester Missionary Church

The North Manchester Missionary Church is streaming live on their Facebook page at 10 a.m. Sunday. The video is then placed on their webpage, which can be viewed by visiting NMMC1.com.

Olive Branch Church of God

The Olive Branch Church of God live-streams Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Find it through Facebook, by searching Olive Branch Church, or by visiting www.facebook.com/myolivebranchchurch or through the church website www.olivebranch.church. Click “Live Streaming” at the top, then click the series icon (lion head).

Richvalley United Methodist Church

Worship at Richvalley United Methodist Church begins at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at 290 N. Jefferson St. Sunday school begins at 10:45 a.m. For more information, call 260-563-1033 or email rvumc@hotmail.com.

Southside Free Will Baptist

Streaming on their Facebook page.

Sweetwater Assembly of God

Streaming services online using the normal service schedule.

Urbana Yoke Parish

Rev. Larry Wade of the Urbana Yoke Parish stated that his congregation posts Sunday services to www.urbanayokeparish.com. Go to the menu line at the top of the page and select “Worship Videos.” The most recent one will appear first. Sunday services are posted by noon every Tuesday.

Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Welcome to Wabash Christian Church (Disci-

ples of Christ), 110 W. Hill St. In-person worship is at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary or via live-stream for the church at home on the Wabash Christian YouTube Channel. Access is also available on our Facebook page and website wabashchristian.org. Stephen Eberhard is the Minister.

Wabash Church of the Brethren

At Wabash Church of the Brethren, 645 Bond St., services will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday in person. Masks are recommended. There is no children’s church or Sunday school at this time. You may reach Pastor Doug Veal at the church office, 260-563-5291, on his cell phone at 260-225-3014, or by email at pastordoug@wabashcob.org.

Wabash Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Kirk Johnson, of the Wabash Church of the Nazarene, stated their service is available on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Find it by going to YouTube and searching for “Wabash Nazarene” or search Facebook for the Wabash Church of the Nazarene. Another option is to visit www.wabashnaz.com, look for the home page, and find “Latest Sermon.”

Walk by Faith Community Church

At the Walk by Faith Community Church in Roann, Sunday school begins at 9 a.m. and the worship and children’s worship services begin at 10 a.m. The Walk by Faith Youth ministry meets at 5 p.m. every Sunday. “All are welcomed and we would love for you to join us,” said Pastor Judy Tyner. For more information, visit www.walkbyfaithcommunitychurch.com.

Wabash First Church of God

The sermon can also be seen on YouTube under Wabash 1st Church and heard on Sunday at 11 a.m. on 105.9 FM.

Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash

Pastor Jerry Gauthier says that the Zion Lutheran Church of Wabash is streaming through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/zionwabash at 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

SCHOLARS

From page A1

“The prestigious program is an important aspect of Wabash County’s drive to increase the educational attainment level of citizens and prepare generations for the 21st-century workforce,” said Garber.

The scholarship is a four-year, full-tuition scholarship for a student graduating from a Wabash County high school.

“Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships are awarded in each county in Indiana and are intended to drive up the level of educational attainment in the state,” said Garber.

In December 2020, Northfield High School senior

Emma Brainard was named the Lilly Endowment Community Scholar 2021. In addition to Brainard, the other three finalists during last year’s awards were Madison Bartoo, of Wabash High School; Erin McGouldrick, of Southwood High School; and Sabine Thomas, of Wabash High School.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, begun in 1998, has awarded full-tuition scholarships to nearly 5,000 students, representing over \$379 million in scholarship tuition. The primary purposes of LEC scholarship program are to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and to encourage and support

the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities through the state.

The CFWC is a nonprofit public charity established in 1954. It serves the citizens of Wabash County by implementing their charitable aspirations, making grants, investing and safeguarding charitable assets, providing information regarding charitable endeavors, convening citizens, and linking resources to address issues confronting our shared lives.

For more information, visit www.cfwabash.org.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer



Provided photo

Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) program director Julie Garber, left, presents last year’s award to then Northfield High School senior Emma Brainard in December 2020.

editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PATROLS

From page A1

that these aren’t just numbers we’re talking about,” said ICJI traffic safety director Robert Duckworth. “These are people with loved ones whose lives were cut short due to impaired driving. Your choices behind the wheel matter, and they can have serious consequences.”

Throughout the campaign, officers will be working overtime to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, which includes more than just drugs and alcohol. Certain prescription and over-the-counter medications can also affect a person’s ability to drive safely, so it’s important to read and follow all warning labels or consult with a doctor before driving.

The ISP is asking for the

public’s help to keep Indiana roads safe this holiday season by designating a sober driver or using a ride service, public transportation or taxi if alcohol is consumed. Motorists are also encouraged to wear a seat belt, slow down, put down the cell phone, and make sure kids are properly buckled up. In addition to being required by law, wearing a seat belt also reduces the risk of injury or death in

a crash.

“If your holiday celebrations include alcohol, make arrangements ahead of time to get home safely don’t wait until after you’ve had a couple of drinks,” said ICJI executive director Devon McDonald. “One wrong decision behind the wheel is all it takes to cause a tragedy.”

Motorists can report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911.

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplainedealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Supreme Court term limits may well make sense

In a 288-page report as long and detailed as any Supreme Court ruling, a 34-member, bipartisan presidential commission couldn't reach consensus on whether the nation's highest judicial panel should grow from nine, where it's been since 1869, to some larger number. It should've been easy, especially for a panel so large, to grasp: Of course having a president pack the court won't solve any of its underlying problems.

To the contrary, letting the chief executive enlarge the bench that issues the final word on constitutional law and statutory interpretation would snap the final, frayed thread of credibility by which the court now hangs, forcing presidents of each party to retaliate with new lifetime appointments of

their own. No doubt, Republicans have been primarily responsible for politicizing the court – but a move by President Biden to add new liberals now would be like deploying a hydrogen bomb in a fission nuclear war.

Three decisions by presidents and Senate majority leaders have produced the court's current six-to-three conservative supermajority, one likely to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and embrace a radical interpretation of the Second Amendment that nullifies life-saving gun safety laws. Most devious was Mitch McConnell's 2016 refusal to give President Obama's moderate pick of Judge Merrick Garland a hearing after Antonin Scalia's death early that year. That was followed by the installation of Neil Gorsuch in the

seat, capped off by the mad rush to approve President Trump's nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, following the late 2020 death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

It may pain Democrats to refuse to go deeper down the route of politicizing the court, but someone has to be the relative grownup if one of the nation's most important institutions has any hope of surviving a dangerously divisive moment. Generous term limits for justices would help balance the court ideologically rather than incentivizing the appointment of young zealots and leaving so much to when a lifetime appointee happens to die. Don't pack a court on the brink; find a way to bring it back.

This editorial was first published in the New York Daily News.

Give the gift of self-sufficiency – all year round

Do you remember your first car? Was it a brand-new make and model that was the envy of everyone, or was it four wheels and a tiny engine that got you back and forth?

Do you remember your first apartment or house? Did you make it a private place of refuge, or did you leave the door open for friends and family? Perhaps you did both.

How did your first car or apartment make you feel? What other parts of your life were made possible because of them? Whether your first car and home were products of fortunate circumstances or struggle and hard work, they had big impacts.

Foster Success is the only statewide nonprofit organization supporting young adults (14- to 26-year-olds) transitioning out of the state's foster care system.

Foster Success provides support through programs and resources that allow young adults to be educated, housed, financially stable, employed, and connected to a support system by their 26th birthday. We started FriendsGiving during the holiday season to raise awareness of the struggles young people leaving foster care face when it comes to achieving those same milestones of a car and home.

Reliable transportation means the ability to go to work and school, to see friends and extended family. A safe and stable home means the ability to rest fully and plan for the future. But self-sufficiency can take years to build, and always involves having a strong support system. That's why our programs are designed to provide skills and support to move teens and young adults aging out of foster care to self-sufficiency.

There are multiple ways to get involved in FriendsGiving. In addition to donating money toward our goal of 25 new cars or apartments to Hoosiers who have experienced foster care, you can help put together a package of starter items for their new home or car. Our young people need items including gas gift cards and ice scrapers for their cars and cleaning products and kitchen utensils for their homes. You can visit our website at www.fostersuccess.org/donate to learn more.

As a community, we should all be supporting Indiana teens and young adults who are exiting the foster care system in their journey to become self-sufficient and active community members. Think of what could be possible if every Hoosier who has spent time in foster care received meaningful, long-term support (financial and otherwise) to ensure they could reach their full potential.

Dr. Maggie Stevens is the CEO and president of Foster Success, an Indiana-based nonprofit that provides financial, educational, and social support to foster care youth at a most critical time – when they are about to or have already transitioned out of the foster care system, most often with no family or economic support. Each year in Indiana, about 500 youth age out of the foster care system and into our communities. For more information, visit www.fostersuccess.org.



LETTERS

Hatred convulses the world

The spate of hatred perpetrated against Asian Americans in the United States through physical and verbal attacks; and the discrimination against LGBTQ, Black, Latino, Indian and Jewish Americans in recent years highlights the persecution of minorities in the U.S. and the world. Blacks and Native Americans in the U.S. have experienced this over the past 300 years. Other minorities in the world have been subjected to persecution and discrimination, and all of the wars in the world have had an element of hatred within them. Genocide has been committed against the Armenians by the Turks, in Rwanda by Hutus against the Tutsis, in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge and by the Serbs against the Bosnians.

Jews in the world, especially in Europe, have been persecuted over the millennia, and they experienced the largest genocidal massacre of all time. The Holocaust in the 1930s and 1940s perpetrated by Nazi Germany and the Nazi leaders – who amazingly claimed to be devout Christians – along with the acquiescence of the vast majority of the German people, exemplified the European hatred of the Jews. An Anti-Defamation League study in 2019 documented widespread anti-Jewish behavior persisted against a minuscule Jewish population of 0.2 percent of the total European population. Greece was at 67 percent Jew-hatred with Jews only 0.05 percent of the Greek population, Poland 48 percent, Ukraine 46 percent, Hungary 42 percent, Russia 31 percent, Spain 28 percent, Austria 20 percent, Italy 18 percent, France 17 percent and Germany 15 percent. The United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland were 5 percent to 15 percent. In comparison, the U.S. was 14 per-

cent, but attacks are increasing by neo-Nazis and Muslims. Muslim countries in the Middle East and North Africa were at 74 percent Jew-hatred.

Muslim persecution of Christians was recently documented in the "World Wide List, 2021." It states every day in some Muslim countries 13 Christians are killed, 12 are arrested or imprisoned, five are abducted and 12 churches are attacked. Extreme persecution of Christians, which includes harassing, beating, imprisoning and raping occurs in 12 nations, nine of which are Muslim-majority countries, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, Nigeria, Iraq and Syria. Nearly 80 percent of Christian persecution in the world is committed by Muslims. The United States has seen several Muslim attacks on Christians and Jews, including the World Trade Center, 9/11 and numerous attacks by individuals over the decades.

Some strides have been made in reducing the persecution of people, but there remains a long way to go to overcome the convulsions of hatred and violence in the world perpetrated against people who are typically very intelligent, educated and successful.

Look up Nazi Germany leaders and Christianity.

**Donald Moskowitz
Elizabeth (Jones)
Moskowitz
Londonderry,
New Hampshire**

Rainwater, polio and income taxes

Most young folks think history can't teach us much. However, today's news headlines beg us to consider otherwise.

For example, because some communities in California have implemented outside watering bans until next spring, households are turning to rainwater collection

systems. Turns out these kinds of systems were well developed some 2,000 years ago in arid climates. Could old technology be the salvation of drought-afflicted areas in the digital age?

Many folks suspect virus technology only came into use recently, so the development of a COVID vaccine is a dangerously new phenomenon. But, alas, a vaccine for polio saved the nation in the 1950s; a vaccine for smallpox came into use about the time our nation was born in the late 1700s; and, in truth, inoculation was used in India and documented in the ancient Hindu Veda scriptures more than a thousand years ago.

And what of the dead democracies of the world? Can the likes of ancient Rome instruct us in enlightened policies for our government today? The Roman historian Livy, writing about the time of Caesar, tells of the heavily progressive taxation system used in his nation hundreds of years earlier. It was considered a badge of honor, a sacred public duty, and also a legal requirement for the rich to dig deeply into their pockets to support the government. Where are such public-spirited people to be found in our democracy today? Certainly not in the Republican Party.

**Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah**

'Don't blame veterans for Afghanistan withdrawal, and don't forget about them'

On August 18, Rory E. Riley-Topping wrote an opinion piece in The Hill that disabled veterans heartily support. They are appreciative of her many efforts on their behalf.

She is the founder of Riley-Topping Consulting, where she continues to work with various veterans' organizations. Riley-Topping served as a litigation staff attorney for

the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), where she represented veterans and their survivors before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. She also served as the staff director and counsel for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for former Chairman Jeff Miller, R-Florida.

The article is entitled "Don't blame veterans for Afghanistan withdrawal, and don't forget about them."

Why do our veterans and especially our disabled veterans resonate deeply with what she is saying here? Here is why.

Our disabled veterans are grossly under-compensated and have been for generations. This is most especially true for our totally and permanently disabled veterans. Our disabled veterans have been asking Congress for fair and adequate compensation since the end of World War I in 1918. That was 103 years ago. Where is it?

In 2022 a totally disabled veteran with no dependents is compensated at the ridiculous rate of \$39,984.72 annually. The National Average Wage Index (NAWI) for 2020 was \$55,628.60 per annum and the median income for 2020 was \$67,521.00. The per capita GDP in 2020 was \$63,416.00, among the highest in the world. This rate of compensation to disabled veterans is deliberate and cruel.

There is a far better chance it will rain beer today than there is a chance that our disabled veterans will be fairly compensated anytime soon. They realize that they are being manipulated and given short shrift by the wealthy and politically connected top 5 percent of the wealth pyramid to keep their compensation low to ensure a low tax rate for the elites. They use the national debt as a constant scare tactic to garner support from the working class

and poor.

We can levy at least a penny tax on every dollar traded on the stock market to pay off the national debt. It is time for the investor class to pay back what they have stolen out of the people's coffers in the GOP enforced 2018 tax relief scam.

The New York Stock Exchange alone traded about 1.46 billion shares a day in 2019. There are presently 13 separate stock exchanges operating in the USA.

And there is yet another consideration. This disgrace is now a grave national security situation.

Once our young people fully grasp that should they enlist in the armed forces and then suffer serious injury or illness in the line of duty then they are trapped inside a lifetime of near poverty. At that point, the armed forces will collapse.

It is insane for us to expect our young people to pick up the mantle of national defense if we are determined to consistently and continually under-compensate them if they get injured in uniform.

Furthermore, we can certainly afford to compensate them well but our elites do not want to bear the tax burden. These are the same elites that got the maximum benefit from the sacrifices of our troops who almost overwhelmingly come from the poor, the working class and the lower middle class. We are very close to armed chaos once our youth finally get a firm grip on this ongoing scam.

Please introduce legislation as soon as possible in the 117th Congress to set compensation at least at the level of the National Average Wage Index for all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans.

Give federal income tax exclusion to all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans for all income regardless of source up to \$125,000 per annum.

**Bill Bixby
Columbia City**

Lifestyles



Photo by Lynda Balslev for TasteFood

A taste of the alps

When the rural inhabitants of Swiss and French mountainous villages devised a warming winter dish incorporating their local cheese and white wine, little did they know it would become an international dinner party hit. It's no wonder why this dish has crossed borders. During the cold and dark months, it's universally appealing to hunker down and cozy up by the fire, and when you can bring the fire to your dinner table for a meal that encourages and embraces interaction, warmth and – best of all – a cauldron of melted cheese, it's hard to resist.

I lived in Switzerland for 10 years, where I had my fair share of fondues. Depending on the region, fondues may vary in terms of the cheese used, favoring the local cow's milk cheese produced, or additional ingredients (such as porcini mushrooms or even tomato puree*). While the ingredients may change slightly, the tradition remains firmly in place, and fondue is unquestionably a national dish. I had plenty of time to practice the technique of

making fondue, and this recipe is my takeaway, which has become our family tradition. It takes inspiration from the traditional Swiss method with just a few tweaks (apologies, my Swiss friends). For instance, fruity Calvados (apple brandy) is substituted for the traditional kirsch. And, rather than serving the fondue only with bread, as the Swiss insist, I also pass bowls of parboiled baby potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower florets for dipping (a great way to get your kids to eat their vegetables) and serve other alpine accompaniments, such as dried meats and cornichons on the side.

What should not be tweaked – and where I will put my American foot down – is the provenance of the cheese: Purchase the best quality, cave-aged Swiss or French alpine cheese you can find, such as Gruyere, Emmenthal, Vacherin Fribourgeois, Comte or Beaufort, and feel free to blend them to your taste. I like to use a blend of 2/3 Gruyere and 1/3 Emmental or Comte.

Depending on how long the cheese is aged, flavor can range from a young, mild and creamy cheese to an aged piquant cheese with earthy, nutty and/or salty notes. Aim for an aged alpine cheese, espe-

cially when you are using Gruyere, which will add nuance and an earthy-umami depth of flavor to your pot of cheese.

*Yes, that is indeed a tomato fondue, which is a popular iteration in the Valais region or canton. It's delicious, and high on my must-make list. I promise I'll publish the recipe when I've made it.

Alpine Cheese Fondue
Active time: 25 minutes
Total time: 25 minutes
Yield: Serves 6

Note: Have all your ingredients ready before you begin. Once you begin, the fondue will come together quickly, and during this time it must be constantly stirred. The fondue must not come to a boil during this time.
1/4 cup Calvados brandy
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus extra for serving
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
3 cups dry, un-oaked white wine, such as sauvignon blanc
1 large garlic clove, minced
1 1/2 pounds alpine cheese, such as Gruyere and Emmenthal, coarsely grated
1 loaf country style or levain bread, cut in 3/4-inch cubes
Parboiled vegetables: small potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower florets

Whisk the Calvados, cornstarch, salt, black pepper and nutmeg in a small bowl until smooth. Set aside.

Combine the wine and garlic in a large, heavy saucepan, Dutch oven or fondue pot. Heat over medium heat until tiny bubbles form, giving the wine a fizzy appearance, without coming to a boil.

Add the cheese, one handful at a time, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until each handful is melted before adding the next. When all the cheese is added, continue stirring for about 1 minute to slightly thicken – do not let the fondue boil during this entire process.

Stir in the cornstarch mixture and continue to stir until the cheese thickens to a fondue consistency. (Note: Some cornstarch brands thicken more easily than others. If your fondue remains thin, whisk 1 more tablespoon cornstarch with 2 tablespoons white wine and stir into the cheese.)

When the fondue is ready, remove from the heat. Pour the cheese into a warm fondue pot if necessary and place over a fondue burner. Serve immediately with extra ground pepper, the bread and parboiled vegetables such as small potatoes, cauliflower and broccoli florets.

Financial regulator takes aim at ‘buy now, pay later’ credit

My grandmother Big Mama used layaway to purchase our Christmas presents.

Big Mama hated using a credit card or being indebted to anyone, so she used layaway to buy gifts for the five grandchildren she was raising. Every payday, she would make a payment on the items held at the

store until she could get everything off layaway. It was the one time of year she splurged.

The layaway strategy, which had been largely retired, is having a resurgence with modern-day features. The current “buy now, pay later” (BNPL) transactions are done over apps rather than at a store's customer service counter. And you get the product now, rather than having to wait to pay it off.

Want that party dress for a New Year's Eve event? No problem. Wear it now, pay for it later. Except you might have some regrets when you realize you spent too much because you could spread the payments out.

The ease of the payment plans might be leading to more impulse purchases – not just during the holidays but all year – and that is making the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau uneasy.

Stifled under the Trump administration, the CFPB is resuming its dogged pursuit of companies offering credit products that could adversely affect consumers. The agency was created under the Obama presidency to increase the oversight of consumer financial products. Its top leadership moved away from that mission during President Donald Trump's time in office, instead choosing to coddle financial companies and give in to their complaints of too much governance.

But the watchdog agency, now under President Joe Biden's control, has signaled it's not to be trifled with. To that end, the CFPB recently ordered five companies offering “buy now, pay later” credit to answer some questions about their business practices.

The CFPB has asked Affirm, Afterpay, Klarna, PayPal and Zip to collect information on the risks and benefits of the BNPL offerings. Among other issues, the CFPB is concerned about the level of debt consumers are racking up and what data is being collected.

“Buy now, pay later is the new version of the old layaway plan, but with modern, faster twists, where the consumer gets the product immediately but gets the debt immediately, too,” said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra.

BNPL credit deals allow consumers to split the payments for the purchases, typically into four interest-free installments. Fees may kick in only if payments are made late.

The BNPL credit products are popular among younger adults and lower-income consumers, and usage of the payment plans has spiked during the pandemic.

Twenty percent of Americans said they had used a BNPL payment plan in the previous 12 months, according to a poll over the summer by SurveyMonkey. More than half of those making less than \$50,000 a year said that they are interested in using the service because they would not have been able

to afford their purchases otherwise, the SurveyMonkey poll found.

Despite the benefits of BNPL, 16 percent of consumers reported having buyer's remorse – especially younger adults.

Those who ended up regretting their purchase cited several reasons, including that they purchased things that were ultimately unnecessary or were too expensive, according to SurveyMonkey.

“Whereas the old-style layaway installment loans were typically used for the occasional big purchase, people can quickly become regular users of BNPL for everyday discretionary buying, especially if they download the easy-to-use apps or install the web browser plugins,” the CFPB said in a release about its inquiry.

Six U.S. senators, including Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., the architect of the CFPB, called for strengthening oversight of BNPL products and providers.

“While the emergence of BNPL as affordable small-dollar credit has potentially provided an alternative to more costly forms of credit, these products also have the potential to cause consumer harm,” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to the CFPB this month. “... BNPL products generally do not receive all of the protections credit cards have, including those governing ability-to-repay, monthly statements, reasonable and proportional penalty fees, and the ability to raise merchant-related disputes.”

A day later, the CFPB announced it was opening a probe.

The companies the CFPB is targeting all said they welcome the scrutiny.

“We believe proportionate regulation is a good thing and set the standard by providing consumers with an interest-free, fair, and sustainable alternative to credit cards,” Klarna said in an email. “Through this process, we believe those benefits will be made abundantly clear and will continue our work with regulators to inform them about how our products are structured, used, and benefit both consumers and retailers.”

In similar statements, the other four companies said they weren't opposed to the CFPB's review.

“It should be noted that Afterpay promotes and enables responsible payments by pausing accounts from future purchases if a payment is late, capping late fees, and not charging interest,” the company said in a statement.

They all touted efforts to be transparent.

“For nearly a decade, Affirm has been advancing its mission to deliver honest financial products that improve lives, and we have never charged a late or hidden fee, ever,” the company said in a statement.

In a 16-page order, the CFPB asked for a great deal of information, including the total number and amounts of BNPL transactions, whether customers are automatically enrolled in autopay arrangements that might lead to overdraft charges, how many defaults the companies are experiencing and what information is reported to the credit bureaus.

The CFPB said it will publish the results of its findings. Even if this examination doesn't result in new regulations for the buy-now-pay-later industry, it should put all financial firms on notice: A more aggressive, responsive CFPB is back, baby, placing consumers' interests first.

By DEEDEE STIEPAN

Mayo Clinic News Network (TNS)

COVID-19 positivity rates in some areas of the U.S. are as high 25-30 percent. Now influenza rates also are starting to rise. Experts at Mayo Clinic anticipate flu activity will continue to increase over the coming weeks and months until the spring. While flu cases are still relatively low, the percentage of positive tests is slowly increasing.

“Three weeks ago, it was at 2 percent. Last week, it was at 4 percent. And this week, it's between 7 percent and 8 percent of our tests being positive for in-

fluenza, and that mirrors what we're seeing in other parts of the country with flu cases emerging,” says Matthew Binnicker, Ph.D., director of Clinical Virology at Mayo Clinic.

With the delta and omicron variants also continuing to spread, how can people know if they're sick with COVID-19 or the flu?

The most common influenza symptoms include fever, sore throat, headache and body aches. However, if influenza involves the lungs, people may experience coughing, shortness of breath and possibly even more severe complications, such as pneumonia. The spectrum of flu symptoms

is similar to COVID-19 symptoms.

“Because the symptoms are really similar, especially early on during the disease course between those two viral infections, and because we're going to manage patients differently depending on whether they have COVID-19 or influenza, testing is very important,” says Dr. Binnicker.

Dr. Binnicker says Mayo Clinic Laboratories is ready to respond to an anticipated uptick in demand for testing.

“Fortunately, we're 20 months into the pandemic, and labs have built up a lot of testing capacity, including ours at Mayo Clinic.

We have capacity to accommodate increasing demand. And we have contingency plans in place to further increase that testing capacity in the event that demand spikes. So, again, the fortunate news is that we have worked throughout the course of the pandemic to bring up more tests and test manufacturers have worked on producing more and getting more equipment in place. And, so, we are in a better position today to respond to that testing demand,” says Dr. Binnicker.

The good news is that it's not too late to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and influenza. Doing so remains the best protection.

When to test for flu, COVID-19

NORTHFIELD SOFTBALL STANDOUT ADDI BAKER HONORED



Photo by Greg Dannacher / Plain Dealer

Northfield graduate Addi Baker holds her state Championship Medal given to her and her teammates for defeating Clay City by score of 3 to 1 and winning the 2021 IHSAA Class A Softball Championship in June. For her strong performance hitting two home runs and going three of four that day, Baker also garnished the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award and received the Mental Attitude Award, as well. She is continuing her career playing first base for the Division I Southern Illinois University Salukis softball team.

Colts, Cardinals to clash on Christmas day

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals failed to clinch an elusive NFL playoff spot after losing to one of the league's worst teams last week.

They'll get another chance against arguably one of the league's best.

The surging Indianapolis Colts (8-6) travel to face the sliding Arizona Cardinals (10-4) on Saturday. It's just the third time the Cardinals have played on Christmas Day, while the Colts will be making their franchise debut on Dec. 25.

The standings say the Cardinals are a better team than the Colts, but that hasn't been the case in recent weeks. The Cardinals have lost four of their last seven games, including their last two. The Colts have won five of six, including a 27-17 win over the Patriots last weekend.

If the Cardinals clinch a playoff spot for the first time since 2015, they'll likely have to earn it against the Colts, who lead the NFL with a plus-14 turnover margin. The Colts are currently in the No. 5 spot in the AFC playoff chase.

"It's a great team. There's no sugarcoating it," Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray said. "They're a great team, a lot of talent over there on defense and offense. We're going to have to be ready for it. This is December football. It's a playoff-like atmosphere on Christmas. They're going to be ready. We've got to come to play."

The matchup features some of the league's best running backs.

The Colts' Jonathan Taylor already has 1,518 yards rushing this season and needs one more 100-yard game to tie Edgerrin James

for the second most in team history in one season.

The Cardinals' James Conner doesn't have as many yards on the ground, but has been a touchdown machine, finding the end zone 16 times to make earn his second Pro Bowl nod.

"If you're winning the rushing title, that means you're doing a great job at running the ball, which could ultimately, probably lead to that end goal," Taylor said. "But there's been guys to win it before and not obtain a Super Bowl."

Milestone run

Taylor is running away with the NFL rushing title.

He has topped the 100-yard mark in eight of the last 11 games, posted 100 yards from scrimmage 10 times in those 11 and has scored at least one TD in a franchise record-tying 11 straight.

This weekend, he's on the verge of more milestones.

His next TD run will tie Eric Dickerson (29) for third-most scores in a player's first 30 games and will tie Lenny Moore's single-season franchise record (20). He needs 146 yards from scrimmage to become the fourth Colts player to top 2,000 yards from scrimmage and is within 192 yards mark of breaking James' franchise record (1,709).

What else?

He can match James' single-season franchise mark (nine) if he runs for 100 yards. And one more score will tie Earl Campbell, Terrell Davis, Larry Johnson and LaDainian Tomlinson for fourth-most in one season in NFL history.

Fore!

Murray hopes to bounce back from a mediocre performance against the Lions last week. He wasn't terrible, but missed on a few

throws and finished 23 of 41 passing for 257 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

The Cardinals quarterback has benefited from solid protection from his offensive line most of the season. He showed his thanks last week by buying personalized golf bags, fitted clubs and other goodies for all of the big men that keep him upright.

"I don't golf too much. I can putt, but I can't hit the ball," Murray said. "It was a collective idea. Me and my parents kind of thought about it. Had some help from a lot of people to make it happen, so it was a good deal. They got their own custom bag, custom set of clubs, some alcohol. Just some stuff."

Tough week

Indianapolis might be without starting center Ryan Kelly for the third straight week. Last Saturday, he didn't play after his newborn daughter died. Kelly posted an emotional message on social media Monday afternoon, confirming the death.

Second-year center Danny Pinter replaced Kelly in both games and the Colts ran wild in both wins.

Kelly did not practice Tuesday and Wednesday, and team officials will let Kelly decide when to return.

"What we've said to Ryan is take all the time you need. We're 100 percent behind you and Emma," coach Frank Reich said, referring to Kelly's wife. "We're 100 percent here to support you, and when you're ready to take that step, then we're right here. I'm not going to push that."

Kelly showed his exuberance over being a "girl daddy" during a baby reveal at Lucas Oil Stadium that was featured on a recent edition of "Hard Knocks In Season: The Indianapolis Colts."

Manchester's Kibler named to D3football.com All-Region 4 First Team

He was a First Team All-HCAC selection and earned Second Team All-HCAC accolades

By DILLON BENDER

Manchester University senior kicker Andrew Kibler has been named to the D3football.com All-Region 4 First Team, as announced by D3football.com on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

NCAA Division III realigned Division III football into six regions in 2021. Region 4 includes the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC), the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA), the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC).

Kibler had a strong senior season in the kicking department as he connected on 8-of-11 field goals (72.7 percent) this fall. He also went 11-12 on PATs. Andrew earned D3football.com National Team of the Week honors on Oct. 12 following a 5-5 performance against Defiance College in which he knocked in field goals from 41, 38, 25, 34, and 25 yards. His longest field goal of the season was a 49-yarder that sent Man-



Provided photo

Manchester University senior kicker Andrew Kibler has been named to the D3football.com All-Region 4 First Team, as announced by D3football.com on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

chester to a 27-24 OT win over Franklin College. Kibler was also a two-time HCAC Special Teams Player of the Week selection this season.

Kibler was a First Team All-HCAC selection. He added Second Team All-HCAC accolades as a punter this fall.

Kibler named D3football.com Third Team All-American

As announced during the NCAA Division III Na-

tional Championship football game, the Stagg Bowl, Manchester University senior kicker Andrew Kibler has been named to the D3football.com All-American Third Team.

Kibler was named to the D3football.com All-Region 4 First Team earlier in December. Kibler becomes the 22nd All-American in Manchester University football history.

Kibler, from Cape Coral, Florida, and Mariner High School, had a strong senior season in the kicking department as he connected on 8-of-11 field goals (72.7 percent) this fall. He also went 11-12 on PATs. Andrew earned D3football.com National Team of the Week honors on Oct. 12 following a 5-5 performance against Defiance College in which he knocked in field goals from 41, 38, 25, 34, and 25 yards. His longest field goal of the season was a 49-yarder that sent Manchester to a 27-24 OT win over Franklin College. Kibler was a two-time Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Special Teams Player of the Week selection this season.

Kibler was a First Team All-HCAC selection. He added Second Team All-HCAC accolades as a punter this fall.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Merry Christmas


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2015 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT W/LEATHER & SUNROOF 92,000 MILES \$17,900	2017 GMC SIERRA CREW CAB SLE 4WD 60,00 MILES \$39,500	2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA LEATHER & SUNROOF \$7,995
2021 CHEVROLET 1500 CREW LT 4WD MSRP ...\$51,690 REBATE ..\$1,000 RED TAG....\$500 \$50,190 RED TAG PRICE!	2022 BUICK ENVISION ESSENCE FWD MSRP\$38,645 REBATE\$500 GM FINANCIAL . \$500 \$37,645 WHEN FINANCED WITH GM FINANCIAL	2021 CHEVROLET BLAZER LT FWD MSRP ...\$35,295 REBATE ..\$1,250 RED TAG....\$500 \$33,545 RED TAG PRICE!

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD


 **Sweetwater Assembly of God**, 2551 SR 114 E, North Manchester. (260) 982-6179. Sunday worship 9am & 10:45am. Sunday evening outreach groups & youth ministry 5-7pm. Wednesday 6:30pm adult/teen bible study, 6:30pm Kidz Zone (K thru 6th grade). All worship services streaming online and on our Facebook page.


BAPTIST

Southside Free Will Baptist, 360 Columbus Street. Pastor Tim Webb. Sunday School 10am. Worship Service 11am. Sunday Evening 6pm. Wednesday Evening 6pm. Sunday worship services streaming online

 **Wabash Free Will Baptist Church**, 1056 Erie Street. Wednesday evening prayer meeting 6pm. Sunday School 10am, Church 11am; evening service 6pm.

CATHOLIC

 **St. Bernard Catholic Church**, corner of Cass & Sinclair. Father Levi Nkwocha. Masses: Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m.; Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 8:15 a.m.


 **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, Main Street in Lagro Mass Time: 11 a.m. First Sunday of the month throughout the year except January and February. Let us worship together.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

 **Christian Heritage Church**, 2776 River Road. (260) 569-7710. Pastor Tim Prater. Sunday 8:30am. Radio Ministry 95.9 WKUZ. Sunday School 9:30am. Morning Service 10:30am. Sunday evening 6pm. Wednesday evening 6pm. Online services on Sunday at 10:30 am and Wednesday 6:00 pm

LaFontaine Christian Church, 202 Bruner Pike, LaFontaine Minister Brad Wright. (765) 981-2101. Worship 9am & 10:30am, Nursery & Jr. Church available. Online Services available on our website

CHURCH OF CHRIST

 **Church of Christ**, Wabash (corner of N Wabash Street and US 24). Evangelist Josh Fennell (260) 563-8234. Sunday School 9am. Morning Worship 10am. Evening Worship 6:30pm. Wednesday Service 7pm. Wednesday Kid's Jam 7pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

First Church of God, 525 N. Miami Street. Pastor Robert Rensberger. (260) 563-5346. Sunday School at 9:15am, for all ages. Continental breakfast at 10am. Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am. Nursery care is available during worship service. Stair lift available.


CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

 **Wabash Church of the Brethren**, 645 Bond Street (off Falls Avenue). Pastor Doug Veal. (260) 563-5291. Wherever you are on life's journey, come join us as we continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully, Simply, Together. Sunday School 9:30am. Worship 10:30am. Children's church and nursery available during worship. Online Service through website or conference call.

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

 **Wabash Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**, 110 W. Hill St., Wabash; Stephen Eberhard, Minister; phone: 260-563-4179; website: www.wabashchristian.org. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Nursery provided. Find us on YouTube and Facebook.

FRIENDS CHURCH

 **Wabash Friends Church**, 3563 S State Rd 13. (260) 563-8452. Lead Pastor, Brandon Eaton. Join us for in-person worship at 8:30AM or 10:45AM, or via live-stream on Facebook at 10:45AM. Children's programming available infants - 6th grade. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45AM. Youth (7th-12th) Sunday evenings at 6:30PM.

INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

 **Bachelor Creek Church of Christ**, 4 miles north of Wabash on St. Rd. 15; phone 260-563-4109; website: bachelorcreek.com; Worship Minister - Michael Eaton, Student Minister - David Diener, Children's Minister - Tyler Leland, Middle School & Small Groups Minister - Nate Plyler, Next Steps & Outreach Minister - Ryan Keim, Women's Director- Taylor McFarland, Early Childhood Director - Janet Legesse. Worship 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.


LUTHERAN

Living Faith Lutheran Church (NALC), 242 S. Huntington St., Wabash, IN. Worship begins each Sunday morning at 10:10 a.m. with Bible study classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for worship. Worship Services live streamed on our website. www.LivingFaithWabash.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), 1500 S Wabash Street. Pastor Dr. Kent Young. (260) 563-6626. We worship our Lord each Sunday at 9:30am with Gospel-based message and Holy Communion. There is a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following the service. We are handicap accessible and everyone is welcome at Trinity! tlcwabash@gmail.com.

UNITED METHODIST

 **North Manchester United Methodist Church**, 306 E Second Street, North Manchester. Pastor Steve Bahrt. (260) 982-7537. Worship Service 8:15am & 10:30am. Coffee Fellowship 9am. Sunday School 9:30am.

 **Richvalley United Methodist Church**, 290 N Jefferson. (260) 563-1033. Pastor Jack Suits. Worship service begins at 9:30am. Nursery available. Sunday School begins at 10:45am for all age.



DORAIS



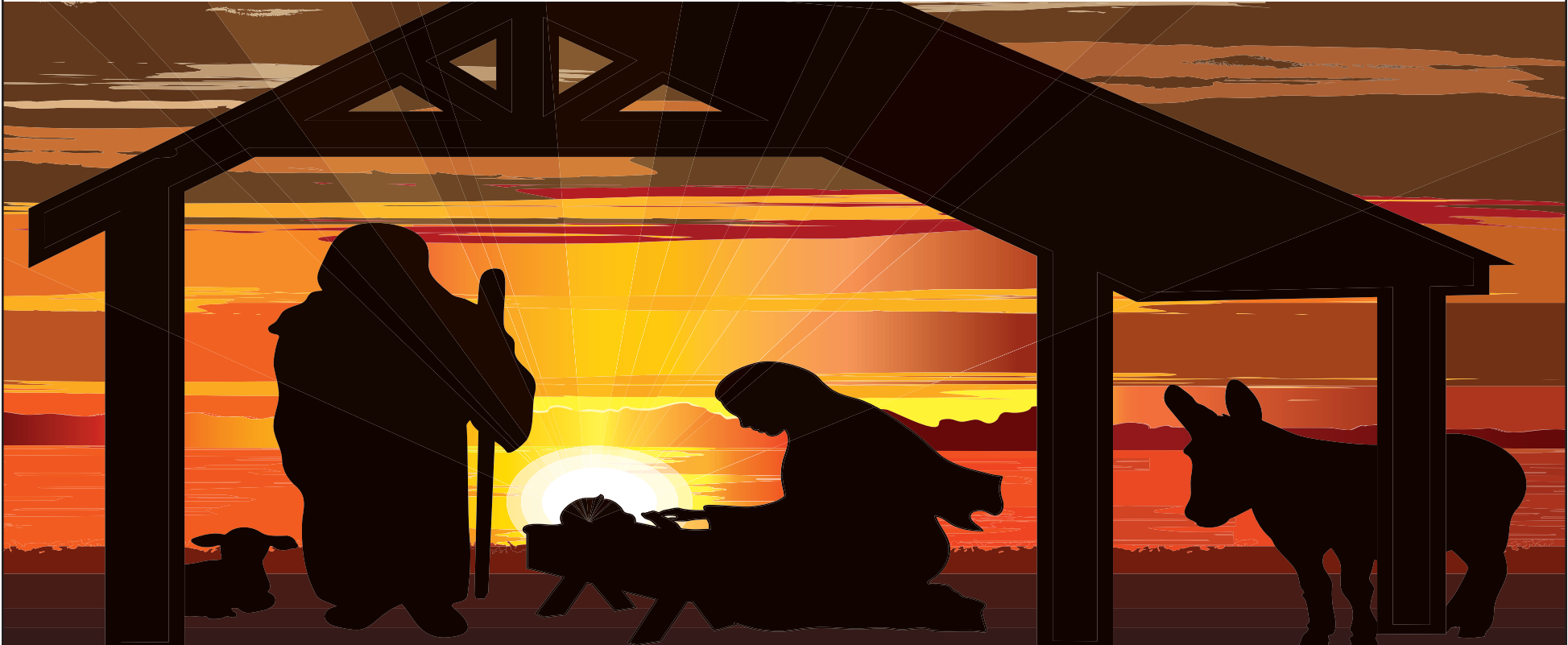
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WALK WITH GOD



Photo Credit: bigstockphoto/dasya11

Another New Year, another list of resolutions - exercise more, eat less, save money. Why not consider your spiritual fitness and walk with God? Worship regularly, spend time in prayer and fellowship - it's the best resolution. Spending time with God will fill your life with the peace and serenity that brings joy and prosperity. Have a healthy and faithful new year!

Daily Devotional Reading

Luke 2:21-52	Titus 1:1-16	Titus 2:1-15	Titus 3:1-15	Revelation 21:1-17	Revelation 22:1-21	Ephesians 1:1-14
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Trump asks Supreme Court to block release of Jan. 6 records

By MARK SHERMAN and NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump turned to the Supreme Court Thursday in a last-ditch effort to keep documents away from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol led by his supporters.

Trump’s attorneys asked the Supreme Court to reverse lower court rulings against the former president, who has fought to block the records even after President Joe Biden waived executive privilege over them. The federal appeals court in Washington previously ruled the committee had a “uniquely vital interest” in the documents and Trump had “provided no basis” for it to override Biden and Congress.

The records include presidential diaries, visitor logs, speech drafts, handwritten notes “concerning the events of January 6” from the files of former chief of staff Mark Meadows, and “a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity,” according to a previous court filing from the National Archives.

Repeating arguments they made before lower courts, Trump’s attorneys wrote

Thursday that the case concerned all future occupants of the White House. Their filing came on the day that an administrative injunction issued by the appeals court was set to expire.

Former presidents had “a clear right to protect their confidential records from premature dissemination,” Trump’s lawyers said.

“Congress cannot engage in meandering fishing expeditions in the hopes of embarrassing President Trump or exposing the President’s and his staff’s sensitive and privileged communications ‘for the sake of exposure,’” they added.

The House committee has said the records are vital to its investigation into the run-up to the deadly insurrection aimed at overturning the results of the 2020 presidential election. Before and after the riot, Trump promoted false theories about election fraud and suggested that the “real insurrection” was on Election Day, when he lost to Biden in an election certified by officials from both parties as fair.

The high-stakes case was widely expected to reach the Supreme Court, which has decided several previous fights over Trump’s records. Trump appointed three of the court’s nine justices.

SNOW BILL

From page A1

diana House Republicans digital media specialist and press secretary Allison Vnatsky.

Snow represents House District 18, which includes Wabash County and portions of Kosciusko, Grant and Miami counties.

Snow said the legislation would also require businesses to accept medical and religious exemptions if they require the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of employment.

“Many Hoosiers continue to contact me with concerns about vaccination requirements in the workplace and whether or not they’ll qualify for an exemption,” Snow said. “As we move forward, I’m committed to working with individuals, employers and other stakeholders on this legislation to help clarify and strengthen Indiana’s vaccine exemptions.”

But, last week, Indiana Chamber of Commerce director of digital media and legislative communications Matt Ottinger said HB 1001 was the “wrong policy for employers and for Hoosiers as COVID-19 numbers surge.”

Ottinger said the Indiana Chamber of Commerce supports the first three sections of HB 1001 regarding the emergency order and maintaining supplemental federal funding.

“However, the organization strongly opposes the remainder of HB 1001 and thus opposes the bill overall,” said Ottinger.

“HB 1001 contains several provisions – led by employers’ footing the bill for COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated workers – that the Indiana Chamber simply cannot support. It also leaves many important questions unanswered, including around testing availability. To greatly discourage and inhibit employers from getting their employees vaccinated to promote health and safety within their workplaces – at a time when there are surging infections, hospitalizations and deaths as the Omicron variant has emerged – is simply the wrong policy in our view,” said Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar during the public hearing. The message from the business community when it comes to employer vaccination policies is: Please stay out of our business operations. Hoosier employers are in the best position to determine what the best vaccination policy is for the safety of their employees, customers and patients.”

Brinegar said they were concerned that HB 1001 would restrict and discourage employers from requiring vaccines in their workplaces if they determine it’s the best course of action.

“Over the past six to nine months, many Hoosier em-

ployers have implemented vaccination requirements for their employees. House Bill 1001 would be very disruptive and expensive to these employers. What’s more, the bill contains an emergency clause that would put the law into effect immediately. This would give these employers no time to establish a testing alternative for employees who claim an exemption,” said Brinegar. “Our single biggest objection is that HB 1001 establishes what amounts to a new business testing tax because it requires that testing of unvaccinated employees occur at the employer’s expense. This is contrary to OSHA regulations and will impose new and substantial costs on employers that have enacted vaccination requirements. It will cause many to abandon their vaccination programs and dissuade others from starting one. One medium-sized Indiana Chamber member estimates that in six months they would incur \$1.2 million in testing costs.”

Brinegar said the expanded religious exemption in HB 1001 “means many more people are likely to claim it.”

“To be clear, denying religious exemptions is contrary to the advice the Indiana Chamber has given to its member businesses. The problem is the state language does not have the same exception that exists in federal law for employers that try to reasonably

accommodate the religious exemption but determine the accommodation would be a significant disruption to their business activities,” said Brinegar. “The Indiana Chamber is also opposed to using the unemployment insurance system to punish employers. That’s simply not what the system is designed to accomplish. All of these concerns and objections notwithstanding, we stand ready to further discuss the details of the bill with committee members in hope of getting to a bill that we do not have to oppose.”

In response to a Plain Dealer request on Tuesday, Dec. 21, Snow responded to the group’s opposition.

“Many Hoosiers continue to contact me with concerns about vaccination requirements in the workplace and whether or not they’ll qualify for an exemption. As we move forward, I’m committed to working with individuals, employers and other stakeholders on this legislation to help clarify and strengthen Indiana’s vaccine exemptions,” said Snow.

HB 1001 will be considered during the 2022 legislative session kicking off in January.

For more information, email h18@iga.in.gov, call 317-234-9028 or visit iga.in.gov.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainealer.com.

PULSE

From page A1

29, according to clerk-treasurer Kristie Bone.

Living Gift Market fundraiser for Heifer International continues through Dec. 31

The 34th Living Gift Market for Heifer International was held Saturday, Nov. 13 in North Manchester, but donations will be accepted until Dec. 31. For more information, call 260-982-6343.

Salamonie Lake First Day Hike planned for Jan. 1

Join Upper Wabash Interpretive Services’ staff for a First Day Hike at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1 at Salamonie Lake’s Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Meet at the interpretive center for a one-hour stroll through the woods along the moderate Wildlife Management Trail. Dress for the weather. Families and friendly dogs on leashes are welcome. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit [Facebook.com/UpperWabash](https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake), <https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake> or dnr.IN.gov.

Salamonie Forest Preschool underway

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool through May 2022 for one Tuesday a month or two Tuesdays a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area. Classes for the once-a-month option will be held Tuesdays including Jan. 4, 2022; Feb. 1, 2022; March 1, 2022; April 12, 2022; and May 3, 2022. Classes for the second meeting time each month will also be held Tuesdays including Jan. 18, 2022; Feb. 15, 2022; March 15, 2022; April 26, 2022; and May 17, 2022. Advance registration is required. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

Salamonie ‘Twens Among the Trees’ Forest School underway

Children ages 6 to 13 are invited to Salamonie Forest Preschool from November 2021 through April 2022 at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The class will be

offered one Wednesday a month from 9 a.m. to noon at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, Andrews. Classes will be held on Wednesdays: Jan. 5, 2022; Feb. 2, 2022; March 2, 2020; and April 20, 2022. Advance registration is required. Limited space is available. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

‘Bite in the 85’ dining program to launch

Visit Wabash County has announced the launch of a new program coming to Wabash County called “Bite in the 85,” which will take place from Monday, Jan. 10, 2022, through Monday, Jan. 31, 2022. For three weeks, the participating restaurants will have the opportunity to offer their specials and deals to the public, including 50 East Garden Center and Café, 950 Speakeasy Bistro, Eugenia’s Restaurant, Harry’s Old Kettle Pub & Grill, Market Street Grill, Modoc’s Market, Pizza King and Twenty. The public will have the opportunity to win gift cards to the participating restaurants and five winners will receive a \$100 gift card. Entries will be collected by filling out a short online form that will be accessible by a QR code on all “Bite in the 85” menus at the participating restaurants. For more information, visit VisitWabashCounty.com/bite-in-the-85.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and noon Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, at Manchester Church

of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, www.classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Manchester exhibit honors indigenous identity

Link Gallery at Manchester University offers art pieces by North Manchester resident Briana “Bri” Floor in “Indi-gi-Flections: Reflections on an Indigenous Identity.” The exhibit continues through Feb. 4, 2022. Link Gallery is in Winger Hall on East Street in North Manchester. The public is welcome, and masks are required inside MU buildings.

Manchester Symphony Orchestra announces 83rd season

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra under Conductor Debra Lynn heads into its 83rd season with these concerts in the works: Trailblazers is March 13, 2022, at the Honeywell Center in Wabash, Indiana. It celebrates African-American composer Florence Price and her Symphony No. 1 in E minor. The concert will also feature high school and college winners of the orchestra’s concerto competition. Spaces on May 15, 2022, in Cordier is the final concert of the season, showcasing the world premiere of Lynn’s five-movement concerto titled Spaces, written specifically for guest artist Derek Reeves. He is the principal violist of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. All concerts are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. Masks and social distancing are required.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week

DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St.,

on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810

Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplainealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

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Twin’s upcoming nuptials don’t include family role

DEAR ABBY: My 52-year-old twin brother – whom I’m close to – is getting married soon for the first time. His fiancée, who divorced after 18 years of marriage, is doing all the planning. She has not included me or my kids (my brother’s only niece and nephew) so far, nor are we included on the wedding day except as guests at the ceremony and reception.

Dear Abby



My brother was a groomsman in my wedding 17 years ago. I feel hurt being excluded and I want to say something, but I don’t know what to say or whether I should talk to my brother or his fiancée. And I don’t know, at this point, how the kids or I could be included. Any advice would be appreciated.

– Anguished Sis In Arizona

DEAR SIS: This show is being run by your brother’s fiancée. She may not be aware he was a groomsman at your wedding, and frankly, I’m not sure what bearing it would have on their own. You and your children should attend your brother’s wedding, welcome his bride into the family and have a good time, which should be easy since there will be no responsibility on any of your shoulders.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend who loves to make me chicken soup. She brings it over proudly and enjoys giving me the container. The soup is delicious, except for one thing: It has tiny bones in it. I can’t stand the texture of these little bones, and I’m worried about swallowing one inadvertently.

I have talked to her about it. She said that’s the way her mom used to make chicken soup. She also told me the bones are edible because they’re very small, and they are inevitable because she is using the whole chicken. She promised to strain the soup for me before adding the other ingredients. Unfortunately, I found bones in the strained soup as well.

Abby, I don’t know what to do. I really don’t want to eat the soup. I don’t want to waste it, but it would crush her if I told her I didn’t want the soup anymore. Any ideas? – Done With The Soup

DEAR DONE: Remove the vegetables from the soup she brings and strain it again, through cheesecloth or a fine strainer. Once you have clear broth, return the veggies to the liquid and enjoy it.

DEAR ABBY: My stepson and his wife have requested cash gifts for their two children’s birthdays and other holidays because “they really don’t need more toys at ages 2 and 4.” I understand this. What I find peculiar is that they told us they put the maximum amount they are allowed into their kids’ college funds each pay period, and when someone gives the kids money, they put that money in instead of their own. Am I wrong in thinking we are giving the gift to them, and not to my grandkids? – Feeling Taken Advantage Of

DEAR FEELING: I don’t think you are wrong. But the question is, is this something worth arguing about?

TO MY READERS: I wish you all a joyous, meaningful and safe Christmas. Merry Christmas, everyone! – Love, Abby

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Aquarium
- 5 Big burger
- 8 Unightly
- 12 Small bird
- 13 Future fish
- 14 Piped up
- 15 Ess molding
- 16 Hardened, as cement
- 17 Make like a snake
- 18 Unwritten tests
- 20 Whiff
- 22 24-hour period
- 23 Duffer’s goal
- 24 — -craftsy
- 27 Rescue price, maybe
- 30 Settle up
- 31 Stun
- 32 Woosnam of golf
- 34 Pants problem
- 35 Pen brand
- 37 Strong soap
- 38 Vandalize
- 40 Rodeo gear

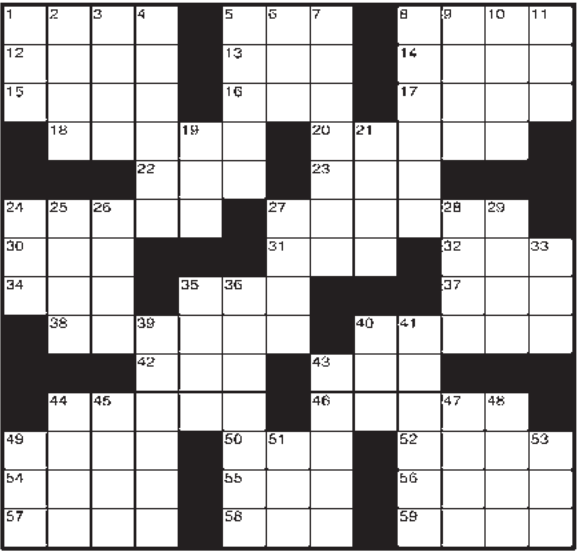
DOWN

- 1 Telephone ABC
- 2 Ship of myth
- 3 “Faint heart — won ...”
- 4 Works clay
- 5 Like a damp rock
- 6 Cato’s hello

Answer to Previous Puzzle

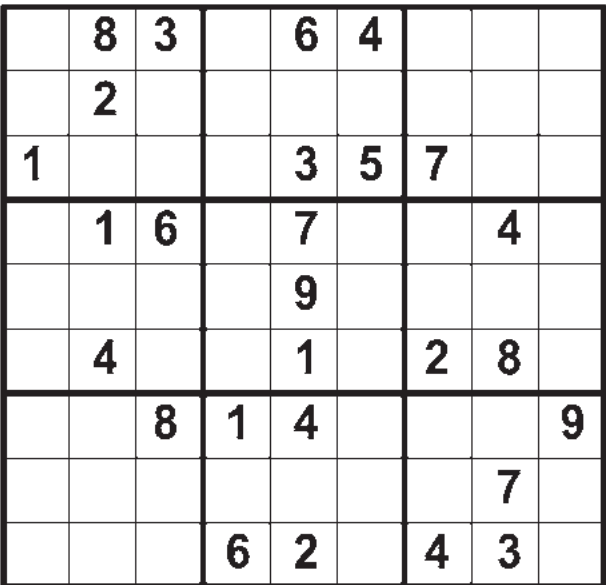


- 7 Unwitting tool
- 8 Auditorium guides
- 9 Run fast
- 10 Tilt to one side
- 11 Fabric meas.
- 19 Put down
- 21 Thrash with a stick
- 24 Spring mo.
- 25 Attack
- 26 The strong silent —
- 27 Road rally
- 28 Greases
- 29 The “Say Hey Kid”
- 33 Prefix for classic
- 35 Swelter
- 36 Reykjavik’s nation
- 39 Boxers’ ploys
- 40 Carry
- 41 Greeley or Mellon
- 43 Makes dirty
- 44 Scorch
- 45 Bishop of Rome
- 47 Comics’ Miss Kett
- 48 Giraffe feature
- 49 Ski instructor
- 51 Frat letter
- 53 Not he



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



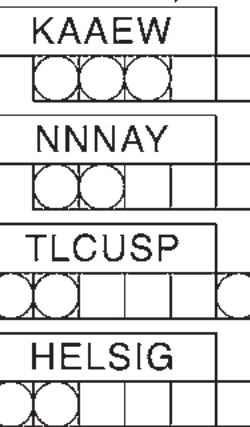
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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
3	7	8	1	4	6	5	9	2
9	6	1	8	5	2	3	7	4
4	5	2	7	3	9	6	1	8
8	9	6	5	2	7	1	4	3
5	3	7	9	1	4	8	2	6
1	2	4	6	8	3	7	5	9
6	4	3	2	7	5	9	8	1
7	8	9	4	6	1	2	3	5
2	1	5	3	9	8	4	6	7

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Ans. here: ○○○○○○

Yesterday’s Jumbles: SALAD AWFUL FEMALE HOURLY
Answer: The trash collector retired after 40 years and was voted into the — “HAUL” OF FAME

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kruek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

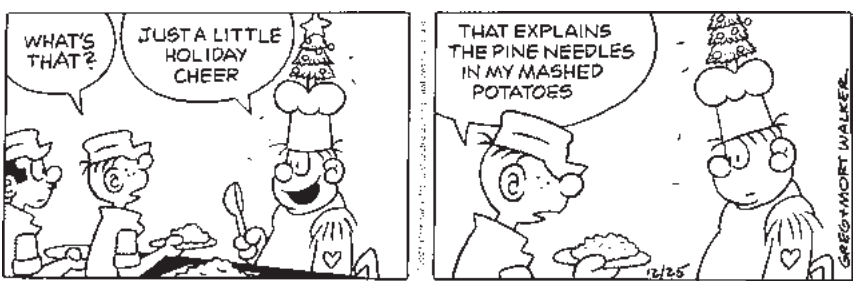
“○○○○○○○” (Answers Monday)

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



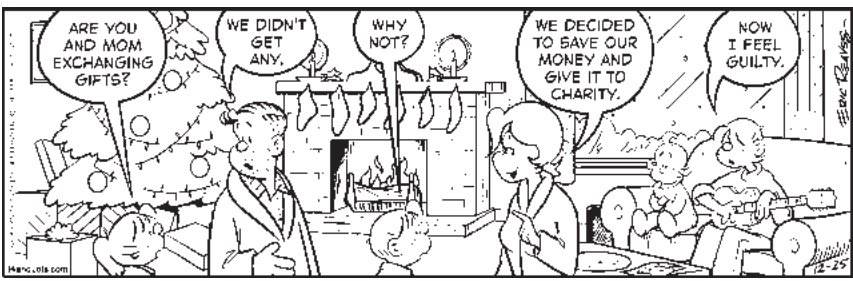
BEEBLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



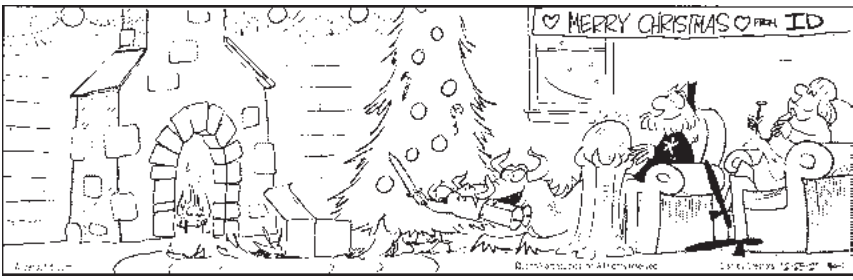
HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Christmas is not a day of selfishness

Q: Is Christmas built upon the story of the wise men bringing gifts to the baby Jesus? – C.G.

A: Christmas often is just thought of as a time to give and receive gifts, but what is behind this idea? The answer is simple: The reason for Christmas first and foremost is that God “gave” His most precious Son to the whole world. God sent Him down to Earth to save the people from their sin. He came as hope to a dying world.

People came from near and far to worship the Christ child, and some brought gifts. What were these gifts? They were symbolic gifts that spoke of a future day when Christ would

“give” His life in atonement for the sins of mankind.

Christmas tells us that at a specific time and at a specific place, a specific Person was born. In the words of a favorite carol “Silent Night,” that Person was the “Holy Infant, so tender and mild” – the Lord Jesus Christ. He came “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Christmas is not a day of selfishness and focusing on the things we receive. Christ

is about giving to others. But most of all, Christmas is a time to recognize what God has done for the human race. And nothing is greater than receiving this gift from God above, for with it comes the certainty of eternal life in Heaven with Him forever.

God has not left us alone. He sent Jesus to rescue us! He wants us to know Him and experience life the way He created it to be. What a wonderful gift!

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations of famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“PSF MFZP CY XBB ARYPZ XKCDWH
XDE GSKRZPJXZ PKFF: PSF UKFZFDGF
CY X SXUUE YXJRBE XBB NKXUUFH WU
RD FXGS CPSFK.” — MWKPCD SRBBZ

Previous Solution: “My heroes are just everyday people who work hard, are honest and have integrity.” — Singer Jordin Sparks
TODAY’S CLUE: 5 5 2 1 0 5 4

Hallelujah! The remarkable story behind this joyful word

By **DEBORAH NETBURN**
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

It begins with the violins – orderly and baroque. The choir rises. The audience rises. And before you know it, the concert hall, church, rec center or school auditorium fills with the triumphant sound of one of the most beloved musical works of the season: Handel’s “Hallelujah” chorus.

Over the next four minutes (and change) the choir will repeat the word hallelujah 48 times, but the audience and musicians never seem to tire of it. Credit Handel’s vibrant melody, but also the almost mystical power of that combination of vowels and consonants.

HalleLUjah!
HalleLUjah!
Hah-lay-ay-loo-YAH!

But what does hallelujah mean, exactly? And why does it continue to resonate with us, untranslated, thousands of years after it first appeared in the Hebrew bible?



Brian van der Brug / Los Angeles Times / TNS
Grant Gershon, right, conducts the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on Nov. 21 in Los Angeles.

And what is it about hallelujah that inspires composers and songwriters to deploy it so frequently and reverentially from Handel to Ray Charles to Leonard Cohen?

The Oxford English Dictionary defines hallelujah as “a song or shout of praise to God,” but biblical scholars will tell you it’s actually a smash-up of two Hebrew words: “hallel” meaning “to praise”

and “jah” meaning Yahweh, or God.

But that’s just the official meaning. For Grant Gershon, director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, hallelujah is a perfect word because it can take on different meanings.

“It’s this sound that is just so full of possibilities,” he said. “You can fill it with whatever you need to say or communicate.”

In Handel’s great chorus, the word is joyous, victorious, accompanied by trumpets and drums. In Sergei Rachmaninoff’s “All Night Vigil,” however, hallelujah reflects a more quiet devotion. Repeated over and over again, it serves almost as a mantra.

“I imagine an older Russian person in front of an icon, just murmuring to themselves, ‘Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,’ “ Gershon said.

As a side note, the Russians add an extra vowel sound to their hallelujah and drop the “H” so it is pronounced Ah-lay-lu-ee-yah. That opens up even more possibilities to the liquid, fluid approach to the word, Gershon said.

Hallelujah first appears in the Book of Psalms – a compendium of sacred poems in the Jewish Bible that dates to the 5th or 4th century BC. There it generally prefaces the beginning of a passage or shows up

at its conclusion.

“Hallelujah functions as a summary,” said Chris Blumhofer, assistant professor of New Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. “It’s meant to usher you into the experience of praising who God is and what God’s done.”

Sarah Bunin Benor, director of the Jewish Language Project and a professor at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, said hearing the word makes her think of the Hallel – a recitation of Psalms 113-118 chanted by observant Jews on holidays.

“We say it on Rosh Hodesh, the first day of the month celebration. It’s part of the Passover Seder,” she said. “It’s a very joyous prayer, very beautiful and very meaningful.”

Hallelujah shows up just four times in the New Testament, all in the Book of Revelation. All four come at the climax

of the text, when God delivers his people from the destructive power of Babylon. In response to this deliverance the people cry out, “Hallelujah!”

“They are praising the salvation from oppression and violence,” Blumhofer said. “They are praising God for delivering his promises and protecting his people.”

Scholars can’t say for sure why hallelujah was preserved intact when nearly every other Hebrew word in the Bible was translated first into Greek and then into Latin (amen is another notable exception). Markus Rathey, a professor of early Christian music at Yale University, said it suggests the word was already charged with an emotion that transcended its linguistic meaning.

“I must say, personally, hallelujah sounds so much more beautiful than simply just ‘Praise the Lord,’” Rathey said.

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The Wabash Plain Dealer will not be publishing its Weekend Edition on Saturday Dec. 25, 2021 and Saturday Jan. 1, 2022 since USPS does not deliver mail on federal holidays.

We will, however, publish those Weekend Editions on Friday Dec. 24, 2021 and Friday Dec. 31, 2021.

The office will be closed Dec. 24th and Dec. 31st to allow our employees to spend time with family.

Obituaries received by normal deadline times on Thursday Dec. 23, will appear in Friday’s editions. Obituaries received after deadline Thursday and through the weekend will be published in the next available edition.

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